



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

October 30, 2019

Ms. Katie Lentz
Open Records
Williamson County Sheriff's Office
508 South Rock Street
Georgetown, Texas 78626

OR2019-30582

Dear Ms. Lentz:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 794077.

The Williamson County Sheriff's Office (the "sheriff's office") received a request for the names of all deputies and reserve deputies in the sheriff's office employed during a specified time period. You claim some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.152 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

You seek to withhold the identifying information of undercover officers from the submitted information. Section 552.152 of the Government Code provides:

Information in the custody of a governmental body that relates to an employee or officer of the governmental body is excepted from [required public disclosure] if, under the specific circumstances pertaining to the employee or officer, disclosure of the information would subject the employee or officer to a substantial threat of physical harm.

Id. § 552.152. You inform us the information you marked consists of the names of undercover deputies of the sheriff's office. You assert release of the deputies' identities would put their lives at risk. Therefore, we find section 552.152 is applicable to the information at issue. Accordingly, the sheriff's office must withhold the names of the

undercover deputies you marked under section 552.152 of the Government Code. The sheriff's office must release the remaining information.

You also ask this office to issue a previous determination permitting the sheriff's office to withhold the names and identifying information of undercover officers pursuant to section 552.152 of the Government Code without seeking a ruling from this office. *See id.* § 552.301(a) (allowing governmental body to withhold information subject to previous determination); Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (listing elements of second type of previous determination under section 552.301(a) of the Government Code). We decline to issue such a previous determination at this time. Accordingly, this letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/our-work/open-government/members-public/what-expect-after-ruling-issued> or call the OAG's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Public Information Act may be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the OAG, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Cindy Nettles
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CN/mo

Ref: ID# 794077

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)